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May 15, 2017

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket Nos. 17-84; 17-79: Accelerating Wireline/Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to 47 CFR § 1.1206(b)(2), this letter provides notice that, on May 11 and 12, 2017, Andrew Newton, CEO, Kelly McGriff, General Counsel, and William Hanes, Director of Public Relations, Regulatory and Public Policy of Southern Light, LLC and Jeffrey Strenkowski, VP, Deputy General Counsel of Governmental Affairs for Uniti Group Inc.; along with the undersigned, as Counsel for the parties, met separately with Chairman Ajit Pai, Dr. Jay Schwarz, Wireline Advisor to Chairman Pai; Commissioner Michael O'Rielly and Amy Bender, Legal Advisor to the Commissioner; and Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn.

In these meetings, representatives from both companies described the issues encountered when attempting to install facilities in the public rights-of way. Obstacles include: recalcitrant state Department of Transportation agencies, delays associated with issuing the requisite permits, and some municipalities demanding excessive franchise fees for small-cell deployments. Southern Light explained that when it cannot make use of the rights-of-way on a bridge, for example, the costs associated with fiber deployment can increase 15 to 20 times which can lead to making deployment to certain areas economically infeasible. Also, in a number of states, companies must negotiate with numerous local governments which can require years of effort, reducing competition and increasing costs. Southern Light also distributed the attached presentation during meetings with Commissioner O'Rielly and Amy Bender as well as in the meeting with Claude Aiken.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr.

Ronald W. Del Sesto, Jr.

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai
Dr. Jay Schwarz
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Amy Bender
Claude Aiken

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